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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Scott G. Helms
Application No.: 10/698,107
Filed: October 31, 2003
Title: DISPOSABLE OIL FILTER COVER
Group/Art Unit: 3727
Examiner: Lien M Ngo
Attorney Docket No.: 272-002.001 Helms

Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment
Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the office action of January 14, 2005. Please amend the claims as indicated in the accompanying claim amendment sheet.

The conditional allowance of claims 2 and 3 is appreciated. Claim 2 has been amended so as to include the subject matter of original claim 1. As such, it is believed that claims 2 and 3 are now in allowable form.

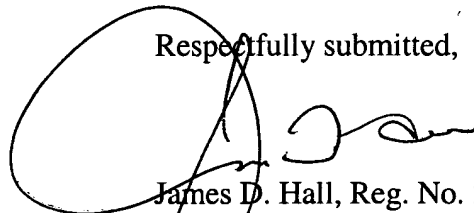
Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S. Sec. 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson. Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the clamp device is for engagement with the canister at the flow hole so as to compress the cover plate against the seal. In Johnson, screw 22 holds lid 15 over the filter housing by engaging plate 23. Screw 22 does not engage any type of flow hole. In fact, in Johnson, the flow hole 16 is located at the base of the filter.

Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 as now amended is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Johnson.

A new claim 4 has been added in which a cover to the applicant's invention and the oil filter are now claimed in combination. A clamp device which extends from the cover and is described as extending through the flow hole and engaging the flow hole so as to compress the cover plate against the seal. This is not disclosed in Johnson. Accordingly, it is believed that new claim 4 is in allowable form.

In summary, it is believed that claims 1 – 4 are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James D. Hall', is written over the typed name and address.

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